

A-B gives \$50,000 to county kids club

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The Boys & Girls Club of Larimer County was more than half way to its goal after receiving a \$50,000 donation from Anheuser-Busch Wednesday.

It is the largest donation by a business the club has received thus far.

"It makes me extra proud of the leadership we're seeing from the business community," said Ann Azari, president of the Boys & Girls Club board.

The donation brings the club's capital campaign to \$1,263,409.80. The club still needs about \$700,000 to reach its \$2 million goal and complete the new building located at 1608 Lancer Drive, adjacent to Lincoln Junior High School.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County serves more than 800 youth who are primarily from disadvantaged families. The club provides guidance for 6- to 19-year-olds.

"What's special about this is it's really helping kids," said Fort Collins Anheuser-Busch plant manager Glenn Wilson.

The check was presented to the organization at a flag ceremony Wednesday afternoon at the site of the new facility. Gary Molock, the club's Youth of the Year, raised an American flag donated by Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., which had flown over the U.S. Capitol to honor the club.

"This soon will be a positive place for kids," said Christine Houldsworth, development director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County.

Construction on the building is about 60 percent complete, said general contractor John Sinnett. It is expected to open in November.

Following the ceremony, onlookers were given the chance to tour the facility. They were shown where a learning center, vocational room, gymnasium and other areas will eventually be located.

"It's great," Azari said. "We're able to realize some really important dreams."